

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13-15, 18, and 24-26 have been amended, and claims 2, 5, 11, 12, 16, 17, 22, 23, 29, and 30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 13-15, 18-21, and 24-28 are pending, with claims 1, 9, 10, 18, and 26 being independent. No new matter is presented in this Amendment After Final Rejection.

Claim Amendments and Entry of Amendment After Final Rejection

Claims 5-8, 12-15, and 23-25 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 5 and intervening claim 2, and claims 2 and 5 have been canceled, such that amended independent claim 1 now corresponds to allowable claim 5 rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner, and thus should now be allowable. Claim 3, which depended from canceled claim 2, has been amended to depend from amended independent claim 1. Claims 6 and 7, which depended from canceled claim 5, have been amended to depend from amended independent claim 1. Thus, amended independent claim 1 and claims 3, 4, and 6-8 depending directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance.

Also, independent claim 9 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 2 and 5, except that "excluding the last stream object unit" in claim 2 has been changed to "excluding the stream object unit having no application time stamp" in claim 9 to be consistent with the language of claim 9. It is submitted that amended independent claim 9 should now be allowable at least because it includes all of the limitations of allowable claim 5, which the Examiner recognizes are not disclosed or suggested by Ando and the other prior art of record.

Also, independent claim 10 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 12 and intervening claim 11, and claims 11 and 12 have been canceled, such that amended independent claim 10 now corresponds to allowable claim 12 rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner, and thus should now be allowable. Claims 13-15, which depended from canceled claim 12, have been amended to depend from amended independent

claim 10. Thus, amended independent claim 10 and claims 13-15 depending from amended independent claim 10 should now be in condition for allowance.

Also, independent claim 18 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 23 and intervening claim 22 but not the limitations of intervening claim 21, and claims 22 and 23 have been canceled, such that amended independent claim 18 now corresponds to allowable claim 23 rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner without the limitations of intervening claim 21. It is submitted that the limitations of intervening claim 21 are not necessary for patentability because the Examiner considers the limitations of intervening claim 21 to be disclosed in column 32, line 20+, of Ando et al. (Ando) (U.S. Patent No. 6,456,783), and recognizes that the limitations of allowable claim 23 are not disclosed or suggested by Ando and the other prior art of record. Accordingly, amended independent claim 18 should now be allowable. Claims 24 and 25, which depended from canceled claim 23, have been amended to depend from amended independent claim 18. Thus, amended independent claim 18 and claims 19-21, 24, and 25 depending directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 18 should now be in condition for allowance.

Also, independent claim 26 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 2 and 5. It is submitted that amended independent claim 26 should be now allowable at least because it includes all of the limitations of allowable claim 5, which the Examiner recognizes are not disclosed or suggested by Ando and the other prior art of record.

Finally, rejected claims 16, 17, 29, and 30 have been canceled, such that the only claims remaining in the application are claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 13-15, 18-21, and 24-28, which should now be in condition for allowance at least for the reasons discussed above. Accordingly, it is submitted that entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection is proper under 37 CFR 1.116(b) and MPEP 714.12 and 714.13.

Errors in the Final Office Action

Item 10 in the Office Action Summary (page 1) of the Final Office Action of July 17, 2007, indicates that the drawings filed on January 1, 2002, have been accepted by the Examiner. However, the present application was filed on January 10, 2002. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate that the drawings filed on January 10, 2002, have been

accepted by the Examiner in the next Office Action, even if that Office Action is an Advisory Action.

Page 4 of the Final Office Action of July 17, 2007, indicates that claims 1-4, 9-11, 6-22, and 26-30 have been rejected. However, it is submitted that the rejected claims are actually claims 1-4, 9-11, 16-22, and 26-30 as indicated in item 6 in the Office Action Summary (page 1) of the Final Office Action of July 17, 2007.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-4, 9-11, 16-22, and 26-30 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ando et al. (Ando) (U.S. Patent No. 6,456,783). However, this rejection is moot at least for the following reasons.

The rejection of claims 2, 11, 16, 17, 22, 29, and 30 is moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

The rejection of independent claims 1, 9, 10, 18, and 26 is moot in view of the amendment of these claims to be allowable as discussed above.

The rejection of dependent claims 3, 4, 19-21, 27, and 28 is moot since these claims depend directly or indirectly from allowable independent claims 1, 18, and 26 and thus are also allowable as discussed above.

Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with the filing of this paper, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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